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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EA-11 OMB-01 EUR-25 /165 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GGAY:SM X20857
APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE
NEA/IRN:JRHODES
---------- 129875
R 072208Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172492

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, TZ, IO, IR
SUBJECT: IRAN'S GROWING INTEREST IN EASTERN AFRICA

REF: TEHRAN 5900

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT MAY BE GIVEN TO MFA AFRICAN DIRECTOR SHAHBAZI:

"TANZANIA IS IMPORTANT AS AN OUTSPOKEN AND VIGOROUS FORCE IN THE COUNCILS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS TANZANIA HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US POLICY IN A NUMBER OF AREAS INCLUDING VIET NAM, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE HAVE MAINTAINED REASONABLY GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE UNITED STATES HAS A MODEST BUT EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TANZANIA. AS ONE OF THE WORLDS 25 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TANZANIA HAS BEEN NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL IN ATTRACTING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM DONOR COUNTRIES. FOREMOST AMONG THESE IS THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE IN TANZANIA'S CASE THAT ACCEPTANCE OF
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AID IMPLIES ANY POLITICAL COMMITMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME

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IT IS APPARENT THAT TANZANIA HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND IN GENERAL IS MOST AT EASE IN THE COMPANY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT NYERERE IS INTENT UPON LEADING HIS COUNTRY TOWARD AN AFRICAN FORM OF EGALITARIAN SOCIALISM; HE IS AT THE SAME TIME

A PRAGMATIC POLITICIAN OF DEMONSTRATED LONGEVITY. WE EXPECT TO SEE TANZANIA CONTINUE ON A LEFTWARD LEANING, NON-ALIGNED COURSE."

"ALTHOUGH ZANZIBAR JOINED WITH TANGANYIKA IN 1963 TO FORM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, IT HAS RETAINED CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN FINANCIAL MATTERS. IN THE EARLY YEARS OF UNION ZANZIBAR APPEARED TO BE PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO THE CHINESE. SINCE ABOUD JUMBE CAME TO POWER AS PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR (AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA) ZANZIBAR HAS ACHIEVED BETTER BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND A GREATER DEGREE OF INTERNAL STABILITY. MOREOVER, JUMBE HAS WORKED MORE CLOSELY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT IN DAR ES SALAAM"

2. FYI: US-TANZANIAN RELATIONS ARE CURRENTLY CLOUDED BY TANZANIAN REFUSAL TO AFFORD OUR EMBASSY IN DAR ES SALAAM CONSULAR ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN IN DETENTION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. FAILURE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, PROGRESS TOWARDS ITS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN MADE IN RECENT DAYS.

3. IRAN'S CONTEMPLATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA IS ALSO INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF ITS HISTORIC ASSOCIATION WITH ZANZIBAR AND THE FACT THAT SIGNIFICANT MINORITY OF ZANZIBARIS TRACE ANCESTORY TO PERSIA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE172492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GGAY:SM X20857
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740216-0524
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740866/aaaacenf.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 5900
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAN'S GROWING INTEREST IN EASTERN AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, ET, TZ, IO, IR, US
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